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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 061856Z JUL 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4001
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MA, UR, PEPR
SUBJECT: SOVIET-MALAGASY COMMUNIQUE

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REF: (A) MOSCOW 15365, (B) ANTANANARIVO 1259

SUMMARY: SOVIET-MALAGASY COMMUNIQUE ON RATSIRAKA VISIT
TO SOVIET UNION CONCENTRATES ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES
AND IS PERMEATED WITH "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" RHETORIC.
HOWEVER, COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT SHED MUCH LIGHT ON ACTUAL
DETAILS OF TALKS OR OF CONCRETE STEPS WHICH MIGHT HAVE

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BEEN TAKEN TO DEEPEN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. DOCUMENT HINTS AT LESS THAN COMPLETE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN RATSIRAKA AND HIS SOVIET HOSTS PARTICULARLY ON INDIAN OCEAN MATTERS AND -- BY ITS CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE -- CHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ASSUME DEPT. HAS TEXT OF JOINT SOVIET-MALAGASY COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT OF MADAGASCAR PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA AS CARRIED IN JULY 5 PRAVDA. COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST:

-- RATSIRAKA'S RECEPTION BY SOVIET PUBLIC WAS DESCRIBED AS "WARM, FRIENDLY", AND TALKS AS TAKING PLACE IN ATMOSPHERE DF "CORDIALITY, TRUST AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING." MENTION WAS MADE OF "DETAILED AND CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" ON INTER-NATIONAL QUESTIONS AND OF CLOSE OR COMMON POSITIONS OF TWO SIDES ON CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

-- TWO SIDES AGREED TO WORK TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL RELATIONS IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, TRADE, TECHNICAL, CULTURAL "AND OTHER" AREAS. PHRASE "AND OTHER" IN THIS CONTEXT SOMETIMES, BUT NOT ALWAYS, IS A EUPHEMISM FOR SOME FORM OF MILITARY COOPERATION.

-- TWO SIDES AGREED TO ESTABLISH SOVIET-MALAGASY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

-- SOVIET SIDE, AFTER HEARING RATSIRAKA'S EXPLANATION OF "CHARTER OF MALAGASY SOCIALIST REVOLUTION" AND OF MEASURES DIRECTED AT "ELIMINATION OF IMPERIALIST AND COLONIAL DOMINATION" IN MADAGASCAR, EXPRESSED "GREAT SATISFACTION" WITH MALAGASY SUCCESS IN STRUGGLE AGAINST FORCES OF "INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL REACTION."

-- EMPHASIS WAS GIVEN TO IMPORTANCE, IN CURRENT SITUATION IN AFRICA, OF STRENGTHENING ANTI-IMPERIALIST, ANTI-COLONAILIST UNITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES; OF JOINT ACTION WITH THEIR "NATURAL ALLIES," THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP; AND OF REBUFF TO ANY ATTEMPTS TO HARM FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AFRICAN STATES AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.

-- TWO SIDES NOTED CONTINUED CHANGE IN "CORRELATION OF FORCES" IN FAVOR OF PEACE, NATIONAL LIBERATION, AND INDEPENDENCE, BUT WARNED OF NECESSITY OF HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE IN FACE OF "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY

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OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTION."

-- RATSIRAKA EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RECENT SOVIET NEGATIVE SECURITY ASSURANCE POLICY AND TWO SIDES CAME OUT AGAINST ISRAELI AND SOUTH AFRICAN PLANS FOR CREATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

-- TWO SIDES EMPHASIZED GENERAL CONCERN OVER RECENT INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS BY "COUNTRIES OF NATO LED BY U.S.," SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNED INTERFERENCE BY NATO COUNTRIES IN ZAIRE, AND CRITICIZED ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-AFRICAN FORCE.

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-- SOVIET UNION AND MADAGASCAR CALLED FOR QUICK ESTABLISHMENT OF GOOD RELATIONS IN HORN AND FOR NORMALIZATION OF RELATIDNS BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA.

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-- TWO SIDES CALLED FOR TRANSFER OF ALL POWER IN RHODESIA TO PATRIOTIC FRONT AND FOR SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM NAMIBIA AND TRANSFER OF POWER THERE TO SWAPO. IN THIS CONTEXT, ATTEMPTS BY IMPERIALISTS TO ESTABLISH PUPPET REGIMES WERE CONDEMNED.

-- DURING "EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" ON INDIAN OCEAN SITUATION, TWO SIDES EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF PEOPLES OF REGION TO TRANSFORM OCEAN INTO ZONE OF PEACE. SIDES CALLED FOR ELIMINATION IN INDIAN OCEAN BASIN OF "ALL EXISTING FOREIGN BASES" AND FOR BAN ON CREATION OF NEW BASES.

-- TWO SIDES NOTED GROWING CONTRIBUTION OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO STRUGGLE AGAINST "IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM, NEO-COLONIALISM, AND RACISM" AND AGAINST IMPERIALIST POLICY OF AGGRESSION AND INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. TWO SIDES CONDEMNED ATTEMPTS BY "IMPERIALIST AND OTHER REACTIONARY FORCES" TO ALIENATE AND WEAKEN THIS MOVEMENT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. COMMENT: COMMUNIQUE'S ABUNDANT POLITICAL RHETORIC REVEALS HINTS OF LESS THAN COMPLETE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN SOVIETS AND RATSIRAKA, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO DISCUSSIONS ON INDIAN OCEAN QUESTIONS. DETAILS ON ANY SUCH DIFFERENCES ARE LACKING, HOWEVER, AS THEYARE ON ANY SPECIFIC ECONOMIR OR MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED. THE ABSENCE OF ANY COMMENT ON CHINA OR VIETNAM IS STRIKING GIVEN THE CURRENT RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF SOVIET CONCERN OVER CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY AS APPLIED TO VIETNAM (REF A, PARA 4). TOON
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